Answd
Jan 4th

Dear Sir!

When I at the end of Jully last came to Kew I got a letter from You through Sir William Hooker, informing me that You had sent me a parcel of books and also your collection of Salices. When I had returned to Sweden in the first days of October I got another, informing me that the books were sent in a package from the Smithsonian Institution to the royal Swedish Academy of Sciences and that You had not thought it worth sending your Salices, as You believed I would see all the species in Sr Hookers herbarium. Now, to day, I have been happy to receive all these books,* all these pamphlets and publications of such a value from so eminent an author; and if I not now make any endeavours to tell You how glad, how honoured I am You may be so kind to believe that I feel it impossible for me. In Swedish it were very, very difficult; in english it is quite impossible.

I dont really know any way how to show you my gratitude. What I yet can send you is so little, so unsignificant; and yet I should be very happy if You would accept that little, and wait for

* with exception of the plates to Your Botany of The U.S. Expedition Were they sent by You! I have not seen any in the parcel.

other years, when I may have to show better fruits.

Meanwhile I never will forget how richly you have endowed me, and I will ever try to show myself worth your kindness.

As to the Salices I really saw a very great deal of Northamerican forms by Sir William. But in studying the European species I have been convinced how necessary it is for the just idea of a species to see large masses of forms. I have not yet made up my notes of these species; but if it should be permitted to me I would express for you my belief that the greatest part of your species is nothing but analogous forms of ~~the~~ ours. F. i.

S. discolor (cujus forma videtur S. eriocephala) cum S. daphnoides nostra analoga
S. cordata (" " " S. angustata) " S. hastata " "
S. lucida ———————— " S. pentandra " "
S. pedicellaris ———————— S. myrtilloides " "
S. rostrata ———————— S. depressa " "
S. Barrattiana & Richardsoni ———— S. lanata
S. desertorum ———————— S. glauca & c. p.

I have this summer had occasion to see several of the alpine species in Switzerland (e. gr. Salix glauca, S. lapponum, S. myrtilloides &c.); and I have found ~~them~~ to the exterior so very differing from our Lapponian types, that I can easily understand how they have got peculiar names in these southern regions (S. sericea, helvetica, Jacquiniana &c.). So there must also exist a greater similarity between the northern regions in America and Europe; ~~there~~ must be a greater part of original species of shrubs common for them both coexisting with peculiar forms (S. speciosa, S. grisea, S. longifolia &c). But now there is with us another thing, making much confusion: the theory of hybrides. It can't be denied ~~that~~ that hybrides exist in our country, if not so plenty as is believed by Wimmer. ~~Is it~~ Are they not yet created in the New World?

Considering all this I am really in great confusion if I may venture to publish anything over a genus, ~~not~~ no doubt even so common in another part of the world as by us, and which part I have ~~learnt~~ learnt to know only by some very ~~in~~defect collections? On the other hand I have had occasion to see ~~the~~ most and greatest collections, to study all our species statu vivente and in the most variable localities, so I could rather believe one have any right to pronounce some idea of the arrangement of the species.

I have got the collection from Mr. D. Candolle and promised to work out ~~that~~ genus for his Prodromus. Now I think to do on the following: when I have my little treatise completed, I will beg leave of you to send it to your approbation. Perhaps I may in ~~many~~ many things have erred; if so, you will be kind enough to correct me.

I should be very glad if You would procure me a little room in any American Journal for a Synopsis of the American Species. This may be believed the best way to hear how the matter ~~the~~ may be ~~tough~~ thought ~~to~~ to have been treated.

But as I have promised Mr. De Candolle also to give an enumeration of the Populi I should be very happy if You ~~would~~ would send me all species You can procure. Without this assistance, I dont believe it will be possible for me to carry out my undertaking.

Early the next spring I will prepare a little collection of various plants for you (containing also Galapagos-plants). As I have selected for all the Gramineæ to work at, You should favour me very much in communicating to me what You can of this interesting family.

I most sincerely thank You for the precious books and treatises I have this day received from you, ~~I~~ and I beg ever to be considered Yours most thankful

N. J. Andersson.

Stockholm d. 2 Decemb. 1857.